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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OC1-01 INR-10 NMO-01 PM-09 SP-02 /034 W
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INFLUENCE, WHICH PLACES ISRAEL'S INTERESTS ABOVE THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES..."

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4350
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INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 05895

USINFO PASS PGM/RC

EO 12065: GDS 8/26/87 MURPHY, RICHARD W.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, SA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AWAC.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY F Schneider DATE 7/2/85
E.O. ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
T.A. ____ REAS. (3) _____
E.O. [illegible] ☐
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RELEASE ☑ in part
FOIA or PCI EXEMPTIONS b1, a5

1. (U) ON AUGUST 26, ONLY ONE SAUDI NEWSPAPER, AL MADINA PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL ON THE NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENT TO SELL AWAC. AND F-15 ITEMS TO CONGRESS.

2. (U) THE EDITORIAL BEGAN, "THE ADMINISTRATION OF U.S. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS BEGUN A BATTLE NOT WITH CONGRESS BUT WITH AMERICAN, ISRAELI AND INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM WHICH IS ALLIED WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM. THE BATTLE STARTED WHEN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TOOK THE FIRST STEP OF ADVISING CONGRESS OF ITS INTENTION TO SELL THE AWACS AND F-15 ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE TO SAUDI ARABIA. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT EMPOWER THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO DEFY THE WILL OF CONGRESS BY TAKING DECISIONS THAT ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO CONGRESS, IT IS ALSO CONSTITUTIONAL FACT THAT CONGRESS CANNOT DENY THE PRESIDENT THOSE PRESIDENTIAL POWERS WHICH ENTITLE HIM TO TAKE DECISIONS WHICH HE FEELS WOULD MEET OR SAFEGUARD THE U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT IS ELECTED BY POPULAR MANDATE, AND HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ARE EQUAL TO THOSE OF CONGRESS..."

3. (U) "THEREFORE U.S. INTERESTS -AND NATIONAL SECURITY IS PART OF THEM --ARE THE CORE OF U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES AS MUCH IN CONGRESS AS IN THE WHITE HOUSE. UNDOUBTEDLY, PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS ADVISERS HAVE THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY EXAMINED THEIR FINAL POSITION ON THE KINGDOM'S REQUEST FOR SOPHISTICATED DEFENCE WEAPONS, INCLUDING AWACS AND F-15'S, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S. STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WHILE THE KINGDOM EXISTS AS A FRIENDLY STATE LINKED TO THE U.S. BY MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BILATERAL AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ELSEWHERE."

4. (U) THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, "IT IS LOGICAL TO SUPPOSE THAT, SHOULD A CLASH DEVELOP BETWEEN THE FINAL POSITIONS OF CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT REAGAN ON THE KINGDOM'S REQUEST, THIS CLASH IN POSITIONS WOULD DEVELOP INTO A FULL-BLOWN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IF BOTH SIDES CLING TO THEIR OPPOSING POSITIONS. HOWEVER, THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL POSITION FOR OR AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DECISION IS THE ABILITY OF CONGRESS TO DEVELOP A CLEAR VISION FREE OF ANY INFLUENCE AND TO VIEW AMERICAN NATIONAL INTERESTS THROUGH THAT PERSPECTIVE. THERE IS NO INTEREST THAT IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH AMERICAN INTERESTS WHICH HAVE INSPIRED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S APPROVAL OF THE KING'S REQUEST, OTHER THAN THE AMERICAN / ISRAELI

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